

FREE

# eyemouthliving

Your local community magazine

March 2026



<https://www.eyemouth.org/magazine>

# welcome



Welcome to our March issue of *Eyemouth Living* as we welcome Spring. As we step into a new season, this issue is filled with great articles that showcase the spirit of our community. From local projects to history, volunteering and everyday moments that bring us together, there is plenty to discover in the pages of this month's magazine. Our community never stands still, even in the colder months. From the dedication of local volunteers helping at the Larder, to the fascinating wildlife that thrives across our coastline, rivers and woodlands, there are reminders everywhere of the quiet work that keeps our area vibrant and resilient.

This issue also includes book news from the library, creative achievements from our schools, and glimpses into local history and heritage. Meanwhile, community groups continue to offer friendship, learning and support, proving that there is always something to get involved in, whatever your interests or stage of life.

A key date this month is the upcoming AGM of the Eyemouth Development Trust, who look after many projects across our community including Splash, the brunch hub, the community larder and indeed this very publication. The AGM on 25th March at 7pm will give you a wee taste of all the Development Trust gets up to. We are also on the lookout for more trustees, so this meeting also offers a chance to get involved in shaping the future of our area by joining the Board. You don't need special experience – just enthusiasm, fresh ideas and a willingness to get involved. We hope to see you there – and we hope you enjoy this month's magazine.

*Andy Haddow*  
Chair, Eyemouth Development Trust



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*Compiled by Liza, Jackie, Joanna and Susie.*  
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Quarter page (portrait size)	£25.00
Eighth page (landscape size)	£10.00

Community and volunteer groups are promoted free of charge.  
Please contact us at: [livingmagazine@eyemouth.org](mailto:livingmagazine@eyemouth.org)



## splash volunteer

We all know volunteering is a good thing to do for the community, but I've found it's actually just as good for me.

It is a solid way to keep professional skills sharp. Working in the Larder involves stocking and dressing shelves, handling cash and card payments, and walking both new and regular customers through how the system works.

Because we handle food, I also earned a Food Hygiene and Safety qualification along with Emergency First Aid. Having those certificates is a nice bit of personal progress, and they stay relevant for three years. It's great to simultaneously help your local community while building your CV.

Beyond the skills, it feels good to be part of a mission. The Larder



works to cut down food waste while making sure there is affordable food for people who need it. As a volunteer, you get a first look at what is coming through the doors. Being there regularly, helps you spot the best items and try different things that you might not have bought otherwise. It saves time and money, and gives you an excuse to try something new or something you haven't had in ages.

So, if you have some spare time and want to pick up some useful skills, consider volunteering!

Taylor Scott

**Splash**

**EYEMOUTH LARDER WITH COMMUNITY FRIDGE**  
 Mon 9am - 11am  
 Tues 3pm - 5pm  
 Wed 9am - 11am  
 Thurs Closed  
 Fri 9am - 11am

**LOCATED IN EYEMOUTH PARISH CHURCH**  
 We are a non-profit community larder dedicated to reducing food waste.  
 The larder is there for everyone in our community. We redistribute surplus food from Foreshore along with food donated by:  
 Eyemouth Coop  
 Lidl Service  
 M&S Service  
 ASDA Service

Please come along and choose up to 10 items for a donation of £1+  
 Email [sales@eyemouth.org](mailto:sales@eyemouth.org) for more info on becoming a volunteer

FareShare, Lidl, M&S, ASDA

**EYEMOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**AGM**

**Wednesday**  
**25th March 2026 at 7pm**

**Held in the Hippodrome**

**New trustees welcome**

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - SCIO (SC045880)



**What a simple statement could mean.**

You might (or like me, might not) have heard about this recent seemingly psychiatrically in-depth analysis that can be performed on such a small and simple statement: 'I saw a bird today'. From the reaction you get to this statement you can, apparently, completely categorise the person. Whether they are empathetic, warm, cold, judgemental, boring, a genius or possibly the world's worst type of human! I beg to differ. A person's response can be dependent on place, mood, time of day, month, circumstance, gender and age; to name but a few. Also one statement cannot define a whole person, it can only give an impression in one particular moment and maybe not even that. To really get to know someone we need a more objective, whole world view, built over days, months, years; not a singular second. That's even shorter than speed dating!

So, instead, I propose a different experiment. It has way more research behind it, so much more evidential proof and can really give a better overview of a person's wellbeing in a particular moment. Allowing you to gauge much more interesting information. Its a simple question: 'How are you?'

I know, I know it's a normal thing we ask every day and the normal quick answer is 'yeah I'm fine how are you?'. I suggest changing or lengthening the question slightly. This simple change can mean so much and really help to understand someone. All with a simple: 'How are you really?'

Such a small change can really mean a lot to a person. It not only means you care, but it indicates that you have time and they can feel safer to off-load. You'll have great, tough, joyous and sad conversations but such a small question can really make someone's day. It can really mean a lot and make yours and their day so much more interesting. You are probably sitting thinking that I'm teaching you to suck eggs, but if today you take that time with just one person, both of your wellbeings will be uplifted, especially after this long winter. You didn't even need to move a muscle!

*Maddie Reynolds, Yoga and Pilates Teacher  
<https://www.littlenamayogi.com/>*

## wildlife notes

**“The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will” – Theodore Roosevelt**

We are blessed in Berwickshire with wonderful habitats that allow local nature to flourish. This wildlife can only exist if we learn to look after where it calls home. Nature conservation work supports this biodiversity by restoring and protecting ecosystems, maintaining ecological balance and managing invasive organisms that try to outcompete native species.

So, what is a habitat? It’s basically the natural environment where organisms live, grow and reproduce. It provides the essential resources such as food, water, shelter and space. Within each habitat, there may be many ecosystems from wood coppices down to a body of water such as a ditch or puddle. Within the habitat, there are two key components – the biotic (the living) such as food and predators and the abiotic (the non-living). These would include the physical and chemical elements such as temperature, soil, and sunlight. Together, the components provide everything an organism needs to survive and reproduce.

So, what types of habitats are local to us? From coastal and marine, to uplands and ancient semi-natural woodlands, our region has a wide variety, and this is what makes it so special for wildlife.

The Berwickshire Marine Reserve has kelp forests, sea caves and soft corals, with the sea cliffs at St. Abb’s Head providing perfect nesting sites for our seabirds. The sandy beaches and rocky shores provide space for intertidal species such as mussels, sea stars and anemones. And then there’s the North Sea itself, home to Bottlenose Dolphins, Minke Whales and Grey Seals. These are all on our doorstep.

“What about freshwater?” I hear you say. Let’s take the River Eye from its source, high up in the Lammermuir Hills. Starting up on Wester Dod, with heather and blanket bogs, the river passes through the villages of



Guillemots

## wildlife notes

Grey Wagtail



Grants house, Reston and Ayton and flows through fertile lowland plains supporting agriculture and rich grasslands. Through the woodlands of Ayton estate, down through the gorge, it comes to its end at Eyemouth harbour. A huge variety of different habitats supporting growing populations of Grey Wagtail, Dipper and Otter. If the habitat is right, nature will come.

One habitat that I’m keen to investigate more locally is the ancient semi-natural woodlands. Our local deans support this type of environment and there are plenty around Berwickshire. Probably the most accessible is Pease Dean, run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. In the springtime, it comes alive with carpets of bluebells and wood anemones but before then there is still lots to enjoy amongst the ferns, mosses and liverworts. Look out for Treecreepers searching for larvae and spiders amongst the

Common Haircap



Treecreeper

lichens. This Y-shaped valley has a real mystic about it at this time of year and feels like it’s from another place and time. Brilliant for nature nuts like me!

Finally, if you wander between Eyemouth and Burnmouth, don’t forget to keep those eyes peeled for another habitat – mixed scrub. Consisting of native woody shrubs, it’s a key environment for nesting and foraging birds especially buntings and finches. An excellent wildlife corridor along our coast.

Yellowhammer



David Lewis, NTS Ranger Team,  
St. Abb’s Head NNR

## gardening notes

### The Garden in March

I haven't been in the garden since Christmas! The weather has just been horrible. It has been impossible to get any work done outside. But now the rain has stopped and hopefully the ground will start to dry out. Thank goodness for the early spring snowdrops and bright aconites.



March is one of the busiest times in the gardener's year. There is so much to prepare for the year ahead. In the vegetable garden or the allotment, the soil needs preparing for the new season's crops.

If you are starting a new bed from scratch you will need to select a good spot that gets plenty of sunshine and doesn't have large trees hanging over it. It also needs to be well drained so that the soil doesn't get waterlogged. If it is exposed to winds maybe you should build or plant a wind break. Are there any things needing removing or dealing with such as drains or boulders?

All the weeds need removing and the area digging over deeply. Weed roots can go down a long way so use a hand fork to get right underneath them and remove every last bit.

Once the weeds and any debris such as twigs or stones have been removed, lightly fork over the soil to loosen compacted soil and improve drainage. Break up clumps of soil to create a fine tilth which should be raked level ready for sowing.

Before you start sowing your seeds plan whether you are sowing them indoors ready to transplant them outside later on or whether they can be sown directly outside. Check the seed packets for when and how to sow them.

### Other Tasks for March

Planting early potatoes. Remember not to plant them in the same patch that they were growing last year.

Start planting onions and shallots now



## gardening notes

so that you have a good supply all year.

Finish sorting out clumps of perennials, lifting and dividing them. Ornamental grasses and herbaceous plants will need cutting back.

When the lawn is completely dry it should be cut but keep the mower high at first.

Plant summer flowering bulbs in containers or in the flower bed ready for a great display later on. Try Gladioli and Lilies.

Start dahlia tubers off in in pots.

### Why not try something new?

Jerusalem artichokes are one of the easiest crops you can grow. They are actually a type of sunflower which produces nutty flavoured tubers. These tubers are planted in a similar way to potatoes, and they produce tall flowering plants in even the worst conditions. They are perennials and will come back again year after year. The harvesting time runs very late into the winter so it and it keeps for a long time too once harvested.

Unlike potatoes they can be planted in the same place year after year and you don't need to buy new tubers since you can just plant the ones you grew yourself.

The tubers can be planted in February but its best to wait until the soil is no longer waterlogged or frosted. The tubers are relatively expensive but well worth the cost since they are so successful. Although local garden centres sometimes stock the tubers you may need to order them online.

Jerusalem artichokes will grow in poor conditions but if you dig in some manure or compost then they will produce more and larger tubers. Plant the tubers 4-6 inches deep (10-15cm) about a foot apart (30cm) in rows.

Caroline Lathe  
(Ayton Gardening Society)



splash



**Splash**  
it's your space

**NATURE FOR WELLBEING GROUP**

Make the most of the health-giving properties of the amazing high quality natural environment that we have in & around Eyemouth. Connect with nature in the company of like-minded people.

We will go for a gentle stroll, practice mindfulness and generally spend time in nature in all but the worst weather so please dress accordingly.

**Meet in the Masons' Hall at 1.30pm on Wednesdays**

splash

**Splash BRUNCH HUB**

**FOOOD!!!**

**Brunch Hub**

Alison and her team look forward to welcoming you to Splash Brunch Hub from 10.30 - 1.30. Open every Thursday at the Community Centre for breakfast rolls, teas, coffees and a lovely selection on home baking, with Lunch being served from 11.30.

**\*Keep an eye out for our weekly Specials\***

Please email [susie@eyemouth.org](mailto:susie@eyemouth.org) for further information on volunteering opportunities

**MARCH ACTIVITIES**

**3<sup>RD</sup> CROCHET SQUARES**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MOVIE AFTERNOON**

**17<sup>TH</sup> FABRIC FLOWERS**

**24<sup>TH</sup> QUIZ**

**31<sup>ST</sup> SEAGLASS ART**

**WOMEN'S GROUP**

**Splash**

**EVERY TUESDAY AT THE MASONS HALL 1PM - 3PM**

If you live in Eyemouth and the surrounding area and would like to meet new friends and learn new skills come along and join us.

**Pick up free period products here**

We're committed to ending the stigma around period poverty by making **free period products** available to everyone who needs them, whether you are picking them up for yourself or on behalf of someone else.

**Available across the Borders**

Products are available at venues across the Borders including:

- all Council operated buildings e.g. contact centres and offices
- Live Border sites e.g. leisure centres, libraries and community centres
- Local food banks
- Homelessness accommodation settings

They're also available in all primary and secondary schools for the use of pupils, staff and authorised visitors.

**Choose from a range of products**

We offer a range of products such as sanitary pads, tampons, reusable cups and pants.

Please take what you need. Stocks are refilled regularly.

If you can't find what you're looking for, ask at reception where staff will be happy to help.

**Find out more**

For more information including a list of venues and products, visit: [www.scotborders.gov.uk/freeperiodproducts](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/freeperiodproducts)

Scottish Borders COUNCIL

## book news

Library opening times:

Monday 10am–1pm, 2–5pm, Thursday 10am–1pm, Friday 10am–1pm, 2–5pm.

### **The Forgotten Shore** by Sarah Maine

In 1940, war hero Archie Maxwell is recuperating from his injuries at Rosslie, his family's estate in Argyll, where his father's new young wife is also living while he is involved in war work in London.

Fast forward forty years, and the Rosslie estate is in turmoil. Andrew Maxwell has just died and the estate should go to Archie, his eldest son, but nobody knows the whereabouts of Archie, who left Rosslie after the war and has never been heard of since.

At an auction at Rosslie, where Lady Maxwell and her two sons are selling off her art collection, Eva Bayne, an aspiring young journalist is attending with her boss. She sees a photograph of the missing heir and is immediately transported back to her childhood in a remote fishing village in Newfoundland where her father was the local doctor. Her family had returned to Scotland when Eva was 11, under circumstances that were never fully explained to her. Now the memories come flooding back, and she tells her boss she is certain that she knew this man when she was a child.

Now she has opened a can of worms. The man who had befriended her in Heart's Repose was the local drunk and layabout, Tam Nairn. Too late she realises that, having changed his name and severed all connections with his family, he might not want to be found. She must return to Newfoundland and track him down.

Available at Live Borders Libraries



Pat Oldale

### **Library News**

Bookbug on Tuesdays at 10am.

Drop in Lego sessions on Fridays 13th and 27th 2–4pm

Walking Bookgroup on Tuesday 10th at 2pm.

Hearing Aid clinic on Friday 20th 10am–12pm.



## abundant borders

Work is recently nearing completion at the Eyemouth Community Fruit Tree Nursery, and our first grafting workshops have already taken place. We will be looking at holding grafting workshops twice a year (in February and August) demonstrating the techniques of scion and bud-grafting to anyone in the local community with an interest. Details of future workshops will be published on our Facebook page, or you can sign up to the regular newsletter via our website: [www.abundantborders.org.uk](http://www.abundantborders.org.uk).



We would also be very interested to hear from anyone with heritage apple trees that we might be able to graft clones from.

Work on the fruit tree nursery has been generously funded by the Scottish Crown Estate's Coastal Communities Fund, and we are also very grateful to the SBC Community Payback Team for all of their hard work, in all weathers, preparing the hard landscaping of the site and erecting the fruit cages which will protect the young trees from the unwanted attention of the local deer!

It is our vision to share the skills required to propagate apple trees, and to make growing your own fruit more accessible to everyone.

At the Community Garden, we grow a wide range of fruit and vegetables and have a marvellous polycarbonate tunnel that allows us to grow crops the whole year round (as well as providing much-needed shelter over the winter!) We are always keen to engage with anyone who might have an interest in growing their own food, or helping to produce crops for local food initiatives. Everyone is welcome to become involved with the tree nursery or any other aspect of the Community Food Garden, regardless of their current level of knowledge or expertise, and all tools and equipment are provided. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Pete at: [projects@abundantborders.org.uk](mailto:projects@abundantborders.org.uk).

**Berwickshire MARINE RESERVE**

BMR is pleased to announce the launch of our latest project:

# UNDER PRESSURE

## Connecting Coastal Communitites

We aim to address the concerns of our coastal community about the increased pressure from climate change, tourism and pollution on our blue spaces.  
We aim to achieve this through:

**Encouraging users to BE MORE RESPONSIBLE**

Our project was made possible thanks to National Lottery players

# history

## Beware the Ides of March!

According to Roman historians, Plutarch and Suetonius, 'Beware the Ides of March' was a warning given to Julius Caesar by a soothsayer, or prophet, a few days before Caesar was assassinated. However, most people may remember the saying from Shakespeare's history play *Julius Caesar*.

So, what is the Ides of March and what does the saying mean? The Romans gave names to three important dates in each calendar month of thirty one days. The first of each month was called the Kalends, the seventh was called the Nones and the fifteenth was called the Ides and the saying means 'don't ignore a warning.'

Rome was a city state that came into being in 509BC and became very rich and powerful. As Rome gained more territory in Italy and around the Mediterranean it became a democratic republic and was ruled by a Senate that represented all classes of Romans and was led by two consuls, elected annually. The Roman armies were well-trained and disciplined but answered to the Senate.



But as time went on internal conflicts and rivalries threatened the existence of the republic. Julius Caesar came from an ambitious, high ranking family. He was a very successful general who earned the loyalty of his men and gained great wealth after he conquered Gaul. The Senate, however, was wary of Caesar's growing power. Before he crossed the River Rubicon, the boundary between Gaul and Italy, the Senate commanded him to disband his army



# history

and return to Rome as a private citizen. Caesar refused and in 49BC marched his victorious army across the Rubicon, thus threatening Rome and its government. The saying, 'Crossing the Rubicon' has come to mean 'to take an irreversible step that leads to major consequences'.

Civil war broke out but Caesar overcame his enemies, including his main rival, Pompey, and was named Dictator – for life. This was not a popular move with members of the Senate. A group of senators, including some of Caesar's friends, feared that he would use his power to become a tyrant. These conspirators decided to assassinate him. The soothsayer who tried, more than once, to warn Caesar of trouble was ignored by him.



In Shakespeare's play Caesar was stabbed to death on the steps of the Capitoline Hill on the Ides of March. Sixty senators, including his close friend, Brutus, took part in his murder. Civil war followed and resulted in Mark Antony, Caesar's friend, and Caesar's nephew, Octavian, defeating the conspirators at the Battle of Philippi in 42BC. It was the end of the Republic. Octavian and Mark Antony divided the Roman provinces into West and East but their rivalry led to Octavian defeating Mark Antony at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. In 27BC Octavian took the name Augustus, and became the first Emperor of a Roman Empire that lasted until 476AD.

Perhaps if Caesar had paid more heed to the soothsayer's warning to 'beware the Ides of March', the history of Rome might have been different.

# Teen Talks

# Our Young Volunteer Carrot and coriander soup recipe




Young volunteers at Splash have been helping kids p1 - p7 cook soup throughout January and February at Eyemouth, Coldingham, Ayton, Reston and Co-path primary schools.

From helping out at these soup days, we have noticed an improvement in our teamwork and communication skills. Alongside that, we really enjoy getting to work with the kids.



In our time there we made various types of soups with, including carrot and coriander, tomato, pea & leek and lentil soup. Throughout the cooking process the children were shown how to safely cut, peel & chop vegetables and then try the soup when it was cooked.





**Ingredients**

- 1kg carrots
- 2 medium onions
- 1 clove garlic
- A small bunch of chopped coriander
- 1tps olive oil
- 1L chicken or veg stock

**method**

- Dice the onions
- Add to the pan with the oil
- Cook until onions are softened
- Chop carrots and add to the pan and mix through
- Add garlic and cook for 5 minutes
- Add stock and cook for 20 minutes or until carrots are soft
- Add the coriander
- Cook for another 5 mins
- Add salt and pepper to taste, and then blend





u3a

Charity No SCO 31477

The East Berwickshire u3a open meeting on February 11th heard a fascinating talk by Cameron Robertson of Berwick Archives on the subject of the De Lan family of travelling photographers who toured the Northeast of England and the Scottish Borders in the 19th century before settling in Tweedmouth. William De Lan married Rebecca who was the daughter of another photographer Charles Wilson as well as being a photographer in her own right and they had three daughters who all followed their parents into the business. Between them they created



portraits of the local inhabitants (and their dogs), rich and poor, throughout the latter part of the 19th century and into the 20th. Cameron took us through the family history with numerous examples of their work and fascinating insights into their life and times.

Our next open meeting will be on March 11th and brings us a historical subject from further afield. "Small Town Hero" by Tim Morris will relate the story of a Canadian prairie girl who became a best-selling author and changed the course of Canadian politics.

All welcome at the Eyemouth Community Centre with tea and coffee from 10am and the talk at 10.30.

# GET THE RIGHT CARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE



	NHS inform includes self-help guides for a range of common conditions: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/infomart/self-help-guides">NHSinform.scot/self-help-guides</a> If you think you need A&E, but it's not life threatening, call NHS 24 on 111. If you need same day medical attention that cannot wait for your GP Practice to reopen, call NHS 24 on 111.	<b>NHS 24</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colds</li> <li>• Cold sores</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Diarrhoea or constipation</li> <li>• Indigestion</li> <li>• Aches and pains</li> <li>• Help if you run out of your repeat prescription</li> </ul>	<b>Pharmacist</b>
	Contact your GP Practice Call NHS 24 on 111, 24/7, 365 days a year <b>Breathing Space: 0800 83 85 87</b> Weekdays: Monday - Thursday 6pm to 2am Weekend: Friday 6pm - Monday 6am	<b>Mental Well-being</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tooth pain</li> <li>• Swelling to your mouth</li> <li>• Injury to your mouth</li> <li>• Painful or bleeding gums</li> <li>• Advice on oral hygiene</li> </ul>	<b>Dentist</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red or sticky eye</li> <li>• Pain in or around your eye</li> <li>• Blurred or reduced vision</li> <li>• Flashes and floaters</li> </ul>	<b>Optometrist</b>
	A range of clinicians, including doctors, nurses and sometimes pharmacists and physiotherapists to help you with both mental and physical health issues.	<b>GP Practice</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts and minor burns</li> <li>• Sprains and strains</li> <li>• Suspected broken bones and fractures</li> </ul>	<b>Minor Injuries Unit</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspected heart attack or stroke</li> <li>• Breathing difficulties</li> <li>• Severe bleeding</li> </ul>	<b>A&amp;E or 999</b>

If you are unsure about where to go or who to see, find out at:

[NHSinform.scot/right-care](https://www.nhs.uk/infomart/right-care)



**Rotary Ramblings**

I am busy writing this, in what I'm sure we all hope is getting close to the end of what has been, at best, a dreich winter. However, the joy of looking forward is not just in seeing the sunshine again (we will, won't we?) but in the knowledge that we will shortly be able to raise the Rotary Sail at the Toll crossroads and crack on with our outdoor activities.

Our partnership work with the Eyemouth High School Greenpower team has continued throughout the autumn and winter, helping deliver the 2026/27 round of the Greenpower Goblin Challenge with the Eastern Berwickshire Primary Schools. This will culminate in the teams from each school test driving their Goblin Race Cars in the bodyworks that they have designed and decorated. STEM subjects being delivered alongside art and creativity, with a huge amount of fun involved. Also involved in this project are the Jim Clark Trust and the Jim Clark Museum.

Just launched is a 'Design a 10th Anniversary Flag' competition for the St Abbs Independent Lifeboat, in partnership with Rotary and Eyemouth High School. This is an opportunity for P6, P7 and S1 pupils to showcase their artistic flare. The winning design will be seen fluttering over St Abbs Lifeboat station and on bunting around the village in the summer.

Early March brings the Careers & Volunteers Fair at Eyemouth High School partnering with EYHS and Developing the Young Workforce Borders. We always love this event and with the new 'volunteer' twist this year, we will be taking a stall as a volunteer group, so look forward to having a natter with as many visitors as possible.

Goblin Race Car Testing Day



In May we'll be partnering with other Rotarians from across the Borders, at the Border Union Showground for the Primary Five, Countryside Day. A wonderful event that allows the youngsters an insight into ecology, the environment and where their food comes from.

You might have noticed the variety of partnerships in each project mentioned, and there's a very good reason for that. It's not all about us: it's about community and how we work together in support of each other and our different primary aims. Watch this space for Sportif, partnering with the Herring Queen, Eyemouth Development Trust, the Royal British Legion and Poppy Scotland and of course, our very high-profile litter picks. More about those next month.



Jim Hettrick

Greenpower East Fortune



Sportif



## abi & kathy



### January was a year long or so it seemed...

Abi and Kathy are sitting in a café with Coffee and Cake.

**Abi:** How are you? Sorry I've not seen you for a while but it's just been too miserable to go out.

**Kathy:** It felt like January lasted a year rather than 31 days. The weather has been awful. It gets into your bones.

**Abi:** I've felt so depressed this last month that I've hardly done anything outside or been anywhere. I popped into Berwick for something and the shop keeper was telling me that they have not been busy at all. The weather has put people off coming out.

**Kathy:** I was given one of those SAD lamps for Christmas and I have been using it. It has really helped as I get so down at this time of the year.

**Abi:** I'm glad it's helped. I may look at getting one of those myself. I've been on the verge of trying to get an appointment at the medical practice as I've felt so rotten. Even started to take daily doses of vitamin C and D

**Kathy:** At least the clocks will go forward in a few weeks. The nights are getting lighter and the snowdrops are out. They give me a boost as they've survived the winter.

**Abi:** Totally agree with you. We have daffodils poking through and I've seen some purple and yellow crocuses.

**Kathy:** I think they are grand little flowers. Did you know they're not native but come from Alpine regions? They would push through the snow to herald the arrival of warmer days.

**Abi:** Well I hope they hurry up and push through the sodden ground we have and that the warmer days will come soon. I'm sick of this weather.

**Kathy:** Yes me too, Spring is in the air and with Scotland beating England in the Calcutta Cup we have much to be grateful for and to look forward to.

With that they both smiled and ordered more cake.

**VOLUNTEER WITH US**  
Befriending in Berwickshire and Kelso

**bha BeFriend**

Helping older people stay connected

**What's involved?**

- 1 to 1 or telephone befriending
- Any time that you can give, even a couple hours per month, at mutually convenient times

**Who can apply?**

- Open to any age
- Simple process to sign up

Call us on: **0800 652 8104**  
befriending@berwickshirehousing.org.uk

Volunteer with us

COMMUNITY FIRST

**John Lamont MP**

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*Working hard for the Borders, all year round*

The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

## eyemouth town team

### **Eyemouth Local Place Plan: A Community Vision for the Future**

The Eyemouth Local Place Plan has been developed by the Eyemouth Town Team, which is made up of volunteers from across the community. After its recent submission to the Scottish Borders Council, the plan is now officially approved by the Borderland Place Programme Board and endorsed and registered by Scottish Borders Council. The main updates are:

#### **Car Park**

We welcomed the resurfacing of the Home Arms Car Park which was completed last year. This was identified by the community (in the household survey) as a priority in the initial stage of the process and this was communicated early to SBC.

#### **High Street**

Eyemouth Community Council has secured a grant aimed at improving shop frontage. This initiative forms a key part of Project 6 and represents ongoing efforts to enhance the town.

#### **New Primary School**

SBC instructed us to remove all statutory projects from our place plan. However, we firmly advocated for the inclusion of a new primary school, recognising its importance to the community. As a result, the new school remains in the Eyemouth Place Plan as an 'aspiration'. It is also referenced in Project 2 and shown on the aspirational site plan, with a proposed location on Coldingham Road.

Since the formation of the Eyemouth Town Team in 2023, we have consistently stressed the importance of the new primary school in our ongoing discussions with SBC. We have persistently called for better community engagement, even when advised this was beyond our remit.

#### **Town Park Project**

We are pleased to share that SBC is currently planning the construction of a pump track within the old high school 'pitches' with completion expected in May/June 2026. We had asked SBC to let the community choose between a skate park or a pump track and they are now working to de-

## eyemouth town team

liver the chosen pump track which is set to be a high-quality facility.

We have been informed that the destination playpark is now scheduled for completion in the following financial year. Its progress has been delayed due to uncertainties regarding the location of the new primary school. We will continue our efforts to encourage SBC to prioritise and complete this promised playpark as soon as possible.

**Borderlands – The following projects are being considered for potential Borderlands Place Programme funding (for more information see link below):**

Project 2: Eyemouth Town Park Initiative

Project 4: Beachfront and Bantry Improvements (initial consultation currently in progress)

Project 9: Eyemouth's Built Heritage

#### **Collaborative Efforts**

The Eyemouth Town Team will continue to work with SBC, South of Scotland Enterprise, Eyemouth Development Trust, Eyemouth Community Council, local councillors, and various community groups to advance the development of projects to inform a Borderland Town Investment Plan, ensuring they meet the needs and aspirations of the local community. It is important to emphasise that the plan and projects identified are not the ideas of a select few people in a meeting room, but they have been formed from the views and feedback of the community.

To access the complete Local Place Plan, please refer to the link provided below. Here, you can see the projects in their entirety, along with the details of the data collected that contributed to the formation of the Local Place Plan. A written copy is also available for viewing at Eyemouth Library. Eyemouth Local Place Plan: [scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/13798/eyemouth-place-plan](https://scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/13798/eyemouth-place-plan)

Borderlands Growth Deal/Place Programme: *Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal | Local Place Plans | Scottish Borders Council*

**This is your plan, developed for and by the people of Eyemouth.**



## occasions anniversary

### Florist Occasions of Eyemouth is 36 years old!

Occasions of Eyemouth celebrated their 36th birthday this year, on January 22! In 1990, Lib Windram, with the support of husband Jim (right), took the big step to open up a wee flowershop in Eyemouth.



The Shop in 2016



Within ten months the business was well-established and registered with VAT. Within a few years it had moved to bigger premises at 26 Market Place and had begun bench training all of their aspiring florists.



### Fast forward 36 years...

They are now a team of six; a third generation florist run by women, that's sitting proudly on our High Street serving the local community with flowers and gifts for all 'occasions'.

While Lib and Jim continue to be their biggest supporters, the family all feel incredibly lucky and thankful for all the support from their customers and clients over the years.

We look forward to seeing what the future holds for this enterprising Eyemouth family!

## works+

### Get Support with Employability at Eyemouth Community Centre

Works+ is here to support young people and families in Eyemouth take the next steps toward work, education, or volunteering opportunities.

If you are aged 16–24, or a parent or carer looking for guidance, you can access help with essential employment skills, including:

- Writing CVs and cover letters
- Completing job applications
- Exploring education or training opportunities
- Finding volunteering roles to build experience



Support is available at Eyemouth Community Centre every Tuesday and Thursday, offering advice, one-to-one sessions, and practical guidance tailored to your goals. Whether you are just starting out or considering a career change, Works+ can help you take the next step with confidence.

Getting support is easy – simply email [alice@worksplus.works](mailto:alice@worksplus.works) to book a session or find out more.

At Works+, we understand that navigating your next steps can feel overwhelming. Our goal is to make the process approachable and achievable, helping you discover opportunities that match your skills, interests, and ambitions.

Take the first step today – your future starts here with Works+ at Eyemouth Community Centre.

Alice Fisher

Employment Support Advisor – Berwickshire

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# andys man club

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KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45  
1 MAN EVERY 2 HOURS**

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MEET MONDAY 7PM**

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